# REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE FORMER LARUE COUNTY SHERIFF

For The Year Ended December 31, 2014



#### ADAM H. EDELEN AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE FORMER LARUE COUNTY SHERIFF

#### For The Year Ended December 31, 2014

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the former LaRue County Sheriff's audit for the year ended December 31, 2014. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

#### **Financial Condition:**

Excess fees increased by \$22,720 from the prior year, resulting in excess fees of \$38,162 as of December 31, 2014. Receipts increased by \$84,110 from the prior year and disbursements increased by \$61,390.

#### **Report Comments:**

2014-001	The Former Sheriff Should Have Submitted Accurate Quarterly Reports
2014-002	The Former Sheriff Should Have Presented An Annual Financial Settlement To The Fiscal
	Court
2014-003	The Former Sheriff's Office Lacked Adequate Segregation Of Duties

#### **Deposits:**

The former Sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities.

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The Honorable Tommy Turner, LaRue County Judge/Executive The Honorable Merle Edlin, Former LaRue County Sheriff The Honorable Russell McCoy, LaRue County Sheriff The Honorable Members of the LaRue County Fiscal Court

#### **Independent Auditor's Report**

#### **Report on the Financial Statement**

We have audited the accompanying statement of receipts, disbursements, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the former County Sheriff of LaRue County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statement.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting as described in Note 1. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the <u>Audit Guide for County Fee Officials</u> issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.



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The Honorable Tommy Turner, LaRue County Judge/Executive The Honorable Merle Edlin, Former LaRue County Sheriff The Honorable Russell McCoy, LaRue County Sheriff Members of the LaRue County Fiscal Court

#### Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the County Sheriff on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

#### Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles paragraph, the financial statement referred to above does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of each fund of the former County Sheriff, as of December 31, 2014, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

#### **Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting**

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the former County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2014, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, we have also issued our report dated October 28, 2015 on our consideration of the former LaRue County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the former LaRue County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> in considering the entity's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

The Honorable Tommy Turner, LaRue County Judge/Executive The Honorable Merle Edlin, Former LaRue County Sheriff The Honorable Russell McCoy, LaRue County Sheriff Members of the LaRue County Fiscal Court

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards (Continued)

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying comments and recommendations, included herein, which discusses the following report comments:

2014-001	The Former Sheriff Should Have Submitted Accurate Quarterly Reports
2014-002	The Former Sheriff Should Have Presented An Annual Financial Settlement To The Fiscal
	Court
2014-003	The Former Sheriff's Office Lacked Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Respectfully submitted,

Adam H. Edelen

**Auditor of Public Accounts** 

October 28, 2015

## LARUE COUNTY MERLE EDLIN, FORMER SHERIFF STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

#### For The Year Ended December 31, 2014

#### Receipts

State Fees For Services:		
Finance and Administration Cabinet	\$ 12,802	
Sheriff Security Service	4,883	
Prisoner Transport	 300	\$ 17,985
Circuit Court Clerk:		
Arrest Fees		4,350
Fiscal Court		2,157
County Clerk - Delinquent Taxes		20,590
Commission On Taxes Collected		249,577
Fees Collected For Services:		
Auto Inspections	2,775	
Accident and Police Reports	505	
Serving Papers	16,856	
Drug Task Force Reimbursement	2,700	
Carrying Concealed Deadly Weapon Permits	 5,655	28,491
Other:		
Add-On Fees	15,286	
Copies of Tax Bill	1,972	
Miscellaneous	7,030	24,288
Interest Earned		112
Borrowed Money:		
State Advancement		 6,500
Total Receipts		354,050

#### LARUE COUNTY

#### MERLE EDLIN, FORMER SHERIFF

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS For The Year Ended December 31,2014

(Continued)

#### **Disbursements**

Operating Disbursements and Capital Outlay:					
Personnel Services	¢	174 420			
Deputies' Salaries	\$	174,430			
Contracted Services-		200			
Advertising		208			
Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs		10,544			
Materials and Supplies-		4.027			
Office Materials and Supplies		4,827			
Uniforms		1,031			
Auto Expense-					
Gasoline		1,805			
Maintenance and Repairs		11,816			
Vehicle Insurance		513			
Other Charges-					
Conventions and Travel		1,319			
Training		519			
Postage		67			
Bond		1,094			
Copier		420			
Miscellaneous		382			
Capital Outlay-					
Radio Equipment		948	\$ 209,923		
Debt Service:					
State Advancement		6,500			
Vehicle Lease Agreement		16,357	 22,857	-	
Total Disbursements				\$	232,780
Net Receipts					121,270
Less: Statutory Maximum					82,131
Excess Fees					39,139
Less: Training Incentive Benefit					977
Excess Fees Due County for 2014					38,162
Payment to Fiscal Court - June 30, 2015					38,162
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit	:			\$	0

### LARUE COUNTY NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2014

#### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of receipts over disbursements to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

#### B. Basis of Accounting

KRS 64.820 directs the fiscal court to collect any amount, including excess fees, due from the Sheriff as determined by the audit. KRS 134.192 requires the Sheriff to settle excess fees with the fiscal court at the time he files his final settlement with the fiscal court.

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a special purpose framework. Under this regulatory basis of accounting receipts and disbursements are generally recognized when cash is received or disbursed with the exception of accrual of the following items (not all-inclusive) at December 31 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2014 services
- Reimbursements for 2014 activities
- Tax commissions due from December tax collections
- Payments due other governmental entities for payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2014

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

#### C. Cash and Investments

KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

LARUE COUNTY NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT December 31, 2014 (Continued)

#### Note 2. Employee Retirement System

The county official and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a cost sharing, multiple employer defined benefit pension plan, which covers all eligible full-time employees and provides for retirement, disability and death benefits to plan members. Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute.

Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5 percent of their salary to the plan. Nonhazardous covered employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008 are required to contribute 6 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 18.89 percent for the first six months and 17.67 percent for the last six months.

Hazardous covered employees are required to contribute 8 percent of their salary to the plan. Hazardous covered employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008 are required to contribute 9 percent of their salary to be allocated as follows: 8% will go to the member's account and 1% will go to the KRS insurance fund. The county's contribution rate for hazardous employees was 35.70 percent for the first six months and 34.31 percent for the last six months.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65. Nonhazardous employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008 must meet the rule of 87 (members age plus years of service credit must equal 87, and the member must be a minimum of 57 years of age) or the member is age 65, with a minimum of 60 months service credit.

Aspects of benefits for hazardous employees include retirement after 20 years of service or age 55. For hazardous employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008 aspects of benefits include retirement after 25 years of service or the member is age 60, with a minimum of 60 months of service credit.

CERS also provides post retirement health care coverage as follows:

For members participating prior to July 1, 2003, years of service and respective percentages of the maximum contribution are as follows:

Years of Service	% paid by Insurance Fund	% Paid by Member through Payroll Deduction
20 or more	100%	0%
15-19	75%	25%
10-14	50%	50%
4-9	25%	75%
Less than 4	0%	100%

LARUE COUNTY NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT December 31, 2014 (Continued)

#### Note 2. Employee Retirement System (Continued)

As a result of House Bill 290 (2004 General Assembly), medical insurance benefits are calculated differently for members who began participation on or after July 1, 2003. Once members reach a minimum vesting period of ten years, non-hazardous employees whose participation began on or after July 1, 2003, earn ten dollars per month for insurance benefits at retirement for every year of earned service without regard to a maximum dollar amount.

Hazardous employees whose participation began on or after July 1, 2003, earn fifteen dollars per month for insurance benefits at retirement for every year of earned service without regard to a maximum dollar amount. Upon the death of a hazardous employee, such employee's spouse receives ten dollars per month for insurance benefits for each year of the deceased employee's hazardous service. This dollar amount is subject to adjustment annually based on the retiree cost of living adjustment, which is updated annually due to changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Historical trend information showing the CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report. This report may be obtained by writing the Kentucky Retirement Systems, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, KY 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

#### Note 3. Deposits

The former LaRue County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

#### Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the Sheriff's deposits may not be returned. The former LaRue County Sheriff did not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather followed the requirements of KRS 41.240(4). As of December 31, 2014, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

LARUE COUNTY NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT December 31, 2014 (Continued)

#### Note 4. Drug Fund

The former LaRue County Sheriff's Office established a Drug Fund for monies received from court ordered payments. These monies are to be used for law enforcement relating to drugs and other restricted uses. The balance in this account on January 1, 2014 was \$9,893. In 2014 receipts were \$5,896 and funds totaling \$5,673 were expended during the year. The balance as of December 31, 2014 was \$10,116. The former Sheriff transferred \$10,117 on March 6, 2015 to the incoming Sheriff.

#### Note 5. Lease Agreement

The former LaRue County Sheriff's Office entered into a lease agreement on February 9, 2012 for three (3) police cruisers with PNC Equipment Finance, LLC through the Kentucky Association of Counties Leasing Trust with LaRue County Fiscal Court as the Lessee. This agreement requires various monthly payments through February 20, 2018. The total remaining balance of the agreement is \$48,894 as of December 31, 2014.



REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



## ADAM H. EDELEN AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Tommy Turner, LaRue County Judge/Executive The Honorable Merle Edlin, Former LaRue County Sheriff The Honorable Russell McCoy, LaRue County Sheriff Members of the LaRue County Fiscal Court

> Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

#### **Independent Auditor's Report**

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the statement of receipts, disbursements, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the former LaRue County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated October 28, 2015. The County Sheriff's financial statement is prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a special purpose framework.

#### **Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered the former LaRue County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing out opinions on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the former LaRue County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the former LaRue County Sheriff's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying comments and recommendations, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying comments and recommendations as item 2014-003 to be a material weakness.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards (Continued)

#### **Compliance And Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the former LaRue County Sheriff's financial statement is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> and which are described in the accompanying comments and recommendations as items 2014-001 and 2014-002.

#### Former Sheriff's Responses to Findings

The former LaRue County Sheriff's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying comments and recommendations. The former Sheriff's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

#### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with <a href="Movernment Auditing Standards">Government Auditing Standards</a> in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam H. Edelen

Auditor of Public Accounts

October 28, 2015



## LARUE COUNTY MERLE EDLIN, FORMER SHERIFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2014

#### STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

2014-001 The Former Sheriff Should Have Submitted Accurate Quarterly Reports

During our audit, we noted the former Larue County Sheriff did not prepare accurate quarterly financial reports as required by the Department For Local Government. KRS 68.210 gives the State Local Finance Officer the authority to prescribe a uniform system of accounts. This uniform system of accounts, as outlined in the <u>Instructional Guide for County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual</u> requires county officials to submit quarterly reports to the State Local Finance Officer no later than 30 days after the close of the quarters ending March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31. The former Larue County Sheriff should have submitted financial reports as required by the Department for Local Government by the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the close of each quarter.

Former Sheriff's Response: Last quarterly report was missing because after leaving office I did not have access to computer to finish.

2014-002 The Former Sheriff Should Have Presented An Annual Financial Settlement To The Fiscal Court

The former Sheriff did not present an annual financial settlement to the fiscal court and remit excess fees as required by statute for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. KRS 134.192(11)states "In counties containing a population of less than seventy thousand (70,000), the sheriff shall file annually with his or her settlement: (a) A complete statement of all funds received by his office for official services, showing separately the total income received by his office for services rendered, exclusive of commissions for collecting taxes, and the total funds received as commissions for collecting state, county, and school taxes; and (b) a complete statement of all expenditures of his office, including his salary, compensation of deputies and assistants, and reasonable expenses. According to KRS 134.192(12), at the time the former sheriff files these statements, he shall pay to the fiscal court any fees, commissions, and other income of his office which exceed the sum of his maximum salary as permitted by the Constitution and other reasonable expenses, including the compensation of deputies and assistants. The settlement for excess fees shall be subject to correction by audit conducted pursuant to KRS 43.070 or 64.810. The former Sheriff should have complied with KRS 134.192 by presenting his annual settlement to fiscal court.

Former Sheriff's Response: All fees were turned over to Fiscal Court as an annual settlement.

LARUE COUNTY
MERLE EDLIN, FORMER SHERIFF
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2014
(Continued)

#### INTERNAL CONTROL - MATERIAL WEAKNESS:

#### 2014-003 The Former Sheriff's Office Lacked Adequate Segregation Of Duties

The former Sheriff's office lacked adequate segregation of duties. The former Sheriff collected payments from customers, prepared deposits, wrote checks, posted transactions to the receipts ledger, posted checks to the disbursements ledger, and prepared reports.

A lack of oversight could result in misappropriation of assets and/or inaccurate financial reporting to external agencies such as the Department for Local Government, which could occur and go undetected.

The segregation of duties over various accounting functions such as opening mail, preparing deposits, recording receipts and disbursements, and preparing monthly reports, or the implementation of compensating controls is essential for providing protection from asset misappropriation and/or inaccurate financial reporting. Additionally, proper segregation of duties protects employees in the normal course of performing their daily responsibilities.

In an effort to help strengthen internal controls, the former Sheriff should have delegated the duties he performed to other employees within the office and documented his oversight over those duties. The former Sheriff should have separated the duties involved in receiving cash, preparing deposits, writing checks, posting to ledgers, preparing monthly bank reconciliations, and comparing financial reports to ledgers. If due to a limited budget, this was not feasible, cross checking procedures should have been implemented and documented by the individual performing the procedure.

Former Sheriff's Response: Sounds good, but not workable in a small county.